This Monster Wants to Eat Me 1

Sai Naekawa

This Monster Wants to Eat Me

1

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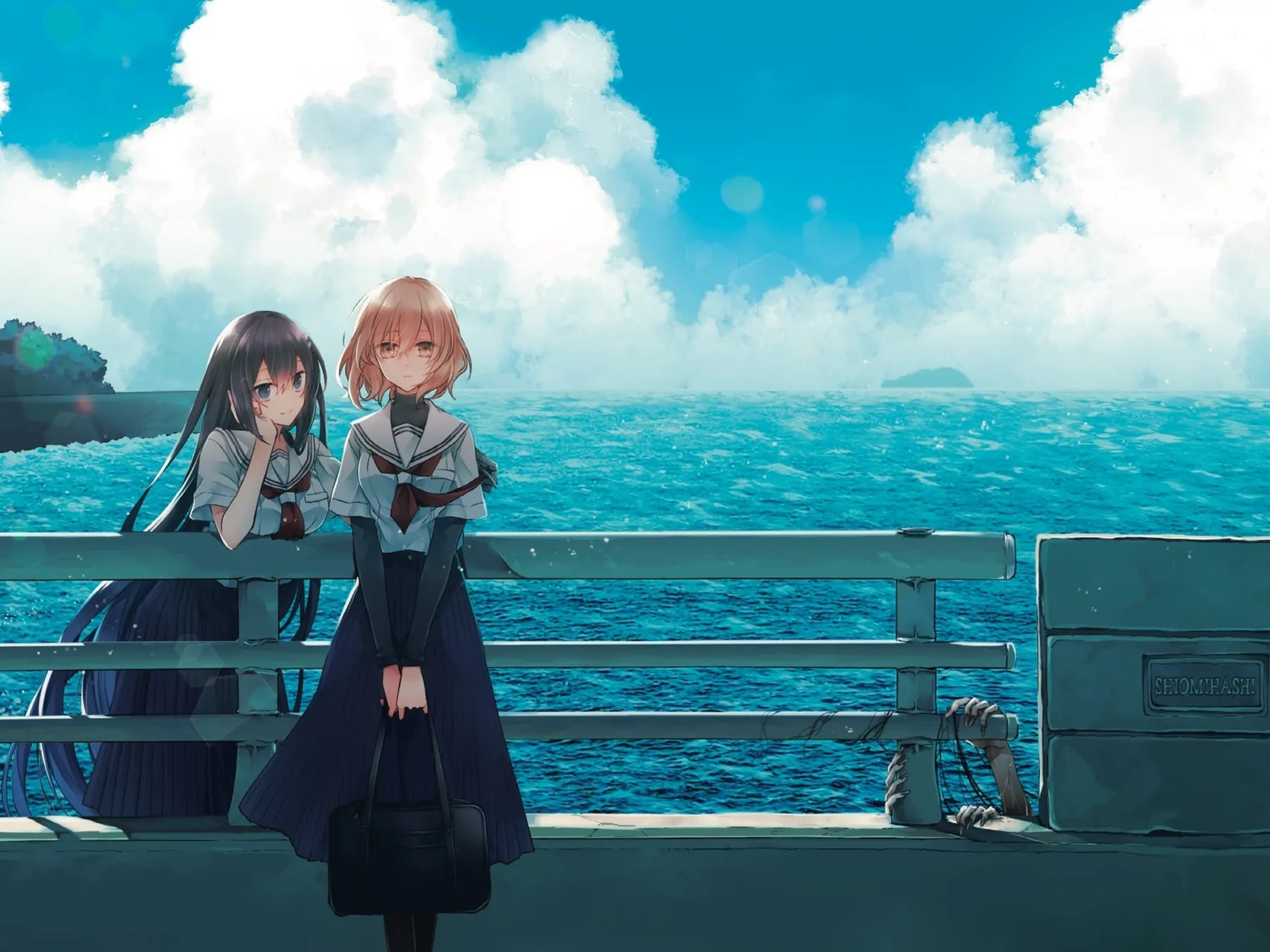
SHIOMIHASHI

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WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES...

...MY SENSES ARE ASSAULTED BY...

...THE LAPPING WAVES, THE DARK HUES OF THE DEEP SEA, AND THE THICK SCENT OF A SUMMER WITH NO END IN SIGHT.

DURING THOSE HOLLOW DAYS OF MY LIFE...

...I MET...

...THE GIRL WHOSE EYES...

...WERE LIKE THE OCEAN ITSELF.

CHAPTER 1

Wanting to Die, She Waits for the Sea

PI PI PI

PI (BEEP) PI PI

PI PI PI

PI

6:45

CHUN (CHIRP)

CHUN

NOSO (SLOUCH)

...

PIRON (DING)

ピロン

Aunt in Oshima

can't come home on their
reaveement day. I'm so sorry

Your mother and father, may
they rest in peace, would be
proud to know that you're in
high school now, Hinako-cha

.....

PIRON

ピロン

PIKON

PIKON

POSU (PWOOF)

PIKON (BING)

2 New Notifications

Miko

Sorry! Gonna be late. You should head to school w/o me

Miko

Be safe, okay?
I mean it! And sorry again

.....

.....

.....

HAAH...

...CAN IT BE OVER ALREADY?

MIIIN

ONII-CHAN! WAIT UP!

MIIIN

COME ON, HURRY!

MIIIN

A GOOD MORN-ING TO YOU.

MIIIN (BUZZ)

OH? MORN-IN'!

HEADIN' OUT?

JI (BZ)

JI

JI

WE'RE GONNA BE LATE!!

MIIIN

MIIIN

SIGN: SHIOMIHASHI

NAW, WE GOTTA RUSH!

ONII-CHAN!

SLOW DOWN!

NO TIME, HINAKO!

MOM AND DAD ARE WAITING!

I CAN'T GO THAT FAST!

ZA
ZA (FSSH)
THE GRIEF...
...THE PAIN—
KOPO (BLUB)
ZA
ZAN
GOPO
THIS SEASON ONLY SERVES TO REMIND ME OF THOSE...
I HATE SUMMER.
MIIIN
MINMIIIN
MIIIN

MIIIN (BUZZ)

MIIIN

MIIIN

—DAMN SUMMER.

WHY CAN'T IT...

...HURRY UP AND END ALREADY?

ZA (FSSH)

ZAN

I THINK ...

...I SAW SOME-THING JUST NOW.

GOBO (BLUB)

A FISH?

...IF IT IS...

...IT'S A PRETTY BIG ONE...

ZAZAN

YURA (SWAY)

IT WAS IN THE WATER...

MIIIN

MIIIN

ZA

ZA

ZA

ZAN

JI (BZ)

JI

JI

JI

CAREFUL THERE.

ZA (FSSH)

ZA

ZA

—THEY WERE AS CLEAR AND GLASSY...

...AS THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA—

THOSE PUPILS ...

IT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD TO BE CAPTIVATED BY THE WATER...

...BUT LEAN OUT THAT FAR AND YOU MIGHT FALL IN.

AH!

GU (GRIP)

I'M FINE, REALLY.

...I WAS THAT CLOSE TO THE EDGE.

IT'S NOT LIKE...

ZA (FSSH)

ZAN

ZA ZAN

ODD-BALL...

I COULD HAVE SWORN ...

MY MISTAKE, THEN.

PA (RELEASE)

ODD

ZA
ZA
...YOU WERE PREPARING TO THROW YOURSELF IN.
ZA
ZA
ZA
HINAKO.
YOU HAVE TO SURVIVE.
HINAKO.
ZA
HINAKO.
ZA
KURU (FWSH)
くるっ
MIIIN
MIIIN
MIIIN
OH?
MIIIN (BUZZ)
GIRI (CLENCH)

I DUNNO WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE...

AH, HAVE I UPSET YOU?

VERY SORRY.

...BUT MAYBE LEARN TO MIND YOUR MANNERS.

MIIIN (BUZZ)

MIN

MIIIN

JI (BZ)

JI

JI

JI

JI

MIIIN

MIIIN

TAKE CARE, NOW.

GOPO (BLUB)

PHEW! JUST IN TIME!!

YOU OVER-SLEEP OR SOME-THING?

GOOD MORNING, MIKO-CHAN.

NAH, UH...

I FORGOT TO HANG MY UNIFORM TO DRY BEFORE BED LAST NIGHT...

MORNING, HINAKO!

SORRY I COULDN'T WALK WITH YOU TODAY.

KOFF!

...SO I BLOW-DRIED THE HECK OUT OF IT WHEN I WOKE UP.

TOTALLY DIDN'T THINK I'D MAKE IT—

KOFF!

BA (FWIP)

BUT NEVER MIND ME, HINAKO!!

DID YOU MANAGE OKAY THIS MORNING!? ANY CREEPS BOTHER YOU ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL!?

MIKO-CHAN...

...STILL GOT A COLD, HUH?

KOFF!

AH-HA-HA... NOTHING I CAN'T HANDLE!

YEAH, BUT, WELL...

YOU'RE A TOTAL HELICOPTER FRIEND.

MIKO'S AT IT AGAIN, HUH?

GOOD MORNING!

...I'M NOT A HELPLESS LITTLE KID...

LOOK, I WORRY! HINAKO'S KINDA DISASTER-PRONE.

LIKE, JUST THE OTHER DAY...

HMM. WELL, I GET WHY YOU ACT THE WAY YOU DO...

YEAH! AFTER ALL...

OH, SHE DOES TRIP ON NOTHING A LOT.

RIGHT!? I CAN'T LEAVE HER ALONE IN GOOD FAITH!

GET CAKE AT THAT CAFÉ ON THE WAY HOME.

...NAKO.

HINAKO!

.....I'M FINE. IT'S NOTHING.

YOU SURE?

WHAT'S WRONG?

...IT'S LIKE MY HEART...

MORNING, CLASS. TO YOUR SEATS.

-KAY!

...LIES SUNKEN ON THE SEABED.

TIME FOR ROLL CALL!

-NOUS?

-HE'S

—EVER SINCE THAT DAY...

.....
WHY?

THE SEA...

WHY IS IT...

ZA
(FSSH)

ZAN

...THAT GIRL...

...REMINDED ME SO MUCH OF THE SEA?

ZA

ZA

ZA

HINAKOOO!!

GLAD I CAUGHT YOU!

TA (TMP) TA TA

WHY? WHAT'S UP?

CAN WE STOP AT THE BOOKSTORE ON THE WAY HOME?

AND THE CORNER STORE! THEY'VE GOT NEW SWEETS!

SURE.

MIKO!

HUUH!?

GAAAN (SHOCK)

Y'KNOW TAKANO-SENSEI FROM MATH?

SHE SAID SHE MADE PRINTOUTS FOR ALL THE CLASSES YOU MISSED AND YOU CAN'T GO HOME UNTIL THEY'RE DONE...

TAKANO-SENSEI

SUPER-SCARY

PURU (SHAKE)

...MIKO-CHAN?

H...

HINAKO...

URK...

PURU

ALSO SUPER-SCARY

YAMASHITA-SENSEI (THE GYM TEACHER)

BUT... I WAS ABOUT TO GO WITH HINAKO...

AND WHEN YOU FINISH THAT, YAMASHITA-SENSEI WANTED TO TALK TO YOU IN THE COUNSELING OFFICE.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE LENGTH OF YOUR SKIRT? AND YOUR JEWELRY?

WHAAA!?

I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.

I HATE STUPID PRINTOUTS... AND YAMASHITA'S TOTALLY GONNA CHEW ME OUT...!

WAAAH! I DON'T WANNA GOOOO!

YOU'LL ONLY MAKE IT WORSE IF YOU BLOW THEM OFF NOW.

URK...

.....

HMPH...

OKAY?

GAAAAAH!!

I'LL MAKE MY SKIRT LONGER... LOSE THE CHOKER..... THERE!!

I'LL JUST HAFTA TAKE CARE OF IT SUPER-QUICK!!

YEAH, GOOD LUCK.

SORRY, HINAKO! WAIT FOR ME, 'KAY!!?

BATA (RUSH)

BATA

I'LL HAVE TO KILL TIME SOME-WHERE...

.....

A CLASS-ROOM? ...NOTHING TO DO THERE.

I COULD VISIT THE LIBRARY.

MAYBE READ A BOOK UNTIL MIKO-CHAN'S DONE—

ZA (FSSH)

ZA

ZA
(FSSH)

ZAN

THAT WAS...

THE SMELL OF THE SEA.

THE SOUND OF WAVES CRASHING.

I RECOGNIZE IT FROM THIS MORNING—

ZA ZA

ZA ZA

ZA (FSSH)
ZAN
.....
ZA
ZAN
THERE'S NOBODY HERE...
.....
ZA
ZA
ZA
.....
WHAT...
I'M STILL IN MY SLIPPERS ...
...AM I EVEN TRYING TO DO?
...I'LL HEAD BACK.
BOKO (BLUB)
MIKO-CHAN MIGHT BE DONE BY NOW.
GUN (TUG)

ZURU
(SLIP)

!!

HUH?

ZA
(SLIDE)

!!

ZA ZA ...

OW...

WHAT...

...THE...?

ZA

ZA

ZA (FSSH)

ZA

ZA

ZA

ZA

THERE...

...YOU...

...ARE.

GOBO (BLUB)

WHAT'S GOING ON?

THIS MORNING, WE WERE INTERRUPTED, BUT...

ZABU (BLOOSH)

TRAVELING HERE FROM SAIKAIDOU WAS WELL WORTH IT.

WHAT IS THAT THING?

HUH?

OHH, WHAT A SWEET AROMA.

JIWA (OOZE)

ZU (SLP)

ZU

...NOW, AT LAST...

ZURU (YANK)

...YOU'RE MINE.

THIS IS...

...SO SUDDEN.

GOBO (BLUB)

I HAVE NO IDEA...

...WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.

DOBON (SPLOOSH)

...I MON.....

...BUT...

" "

ZA (FSSH)

ZAN

...CAN ALSO...

—DIDN'T I TELL YOU...

ZA

ZAN

ZURU (DRAG)

ズ

WHAT'S A MERMAID DOING HERE...?

ッ

DAMN YOU...!

KEEP OUT OF THIS! THAT'S MY PREY!!

...STAY BEHIND ME, IF YOU DON'T MIND.

PAK! (CRAK)

ピ

YOU SURE HAVE A LOT TO SAY FOR A BOTTOM-DWELLING MONSTER.

"MER-MAID"? "ISO-ONNA" ...?

YOU LOWLY ISO-ONNA...

I COULDN'T LIFT A FINGER, FROZEN IN PLACE BY THE GRISLY CARNAGE.

...STRAIGHT FROM THE DEPTHS OF HELL.

AND YET...

IT WAS A SIGHT...

...PART OF ME...

PART OF ME WAS.....

IT IS NOW SIX O'CLOCK.

ZA (FSSH)

ZAN

HINAKO...

...HOW DO YOU...

...KNOW MY NAME .....?

...ARE YOU UNHARMED ?

AFTER ALL...

HOW COULD I NOT?

...I'VE SPENT SO LONG SEARCHING FOR YOU.

FOR ME...?

JUST WHO ARE YOU...?

...MY NAME IS SHIORI.

HINAKO.

YOU POSSESS PARTICULARLY APPETIZING FLESH.

I'VE COME TO DEVOUR YOU.

MY HEART WAS RACING.

IT ENTICES CREATURES LIKE THE ONE JUST NOW—

UNCULTURED VULGARIANS WHO FAIL TO GRASP THE IMPORTANCE OF TIMING.

IT POUNDED IN MY EARS, AS LOUD AS THE ROARING WAVES.

ZA (FSSH)

ZAN

—THE THICK SCENT OF SUMMER WITH NO END IN SIGHT...

FOR YOU SEE, YOU'LL ONLY GROW MORE DELICIOUS WITH TIME.

SO THAT'S WHY, UNTIL THEN...

...I WILL, WITHOUT FAIL...

...PROTECT YOU FROM HARM.

...FILLED THOSE HOLLOW DAYS OF MY LIFE.

THAT'S WHEN...

...SHE SHOWED UP OUT OF THE BLUE.

SHE MIGHT FULFILL MY DEEPEST DESIRE.

SHE COULD BE THE ONE...

...TO GRANT ME DEATH.

MonstEat

This Monster Wants to Eat Me

CHAPTER 2

The Unknown Beneath the Dappled Light

MORN-ING!

MIIIN (BUZZ)

MIIIN

MIIIN

HOT TODAY, HUH?

PIKON (BING)

ピコン

I WONDER IF HER COLD RELAPSED BECAUSE OF THAT...

SHE HAD TO TEND TO ME AFTER EVERYTHING YESTERDAY.

GUSHO (SQUELCH)

HEY!!

YOU'RE SOAKED HEAD TO TOE!!

HINAKO!?

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!?

MIKO-CHAN...

PIKON (BING)

ピコン

Miko

Shoot, I got a fever! Might stay home tomorrow, sorry

I'll text you tomorrow morning Sorry again

Take care

Yeah, I'm sick Go ahead w/o me

Were you okay alone? Be careful on the way home too

Soww

I HOPE SHE DOESN'T GET WORSE.

ZA (FSSH)

ZAN

DESPITE HOW SHE LOOKS, HER BODY'S PRETTY FRAIL...

THE HECK IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?

ZA

ZAN

ZA

ZA

ZA

—SO THAT OFFER...

.....

...WHEN YOU SAID YOU'D EAT ME...

...WAS IT TRUE?

...UH, HELLO?

WELL, ABOUT THAT...

IT WAS, BUT—

I WON'T EAT YOU RIGHT AWAY.

...HUH?

ZA (FWSH)

WHAT ARE YOU EVEN—?

HINAKOOO!

SUTA (STRIDE)

SUTA

BE SURE TO TEND TO YOUR WOUNDS, OKAY?

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.

W—

WAIT...

HIII-
NAAA-
KOOO!

YOO-
HOO!

MIKO-
CHAN...

HII

ZAA

HINA-
KOOO!

HUH?
WHERE'D
SHE RUN
OFF TO?

ARE YOU
THERE!?

.....

WHY...?

SHE'S
GONE...

...SHE SAID...

...SHE WOULD EAT ME.

GARA (SLIDE)

GARA

MORN-ING, ALL.

TO YOUR SEATS, CHOP-CHOP!

'KAAAY!

OH, BEFORE WE BEGIN HOME-ROOM...

...LET ME INTRODUCE OUR NEW TRANSFER STUDENT.

SO THEN WHY...? YESTER-DAY...

KOTSU

YOU GUYS KNOW ABOUT THIS?

ZAWA

BEATS ME.

QUIET DOWN, EVERYONE.

KOTSU

NOW, BEFORE SUMMER BREAK?

ZAWA (CHATTER)

KOTSU (KLAK)

KOTSU

—SMELLS LIKE THE TIDE...

AHEM. VERY WELL, THEN.

AS OF TODAY, THIS WILL BE YOUR NEW CLASSMATE—

LIKE THE SEA.

EVERYONE, MEET SHIORI OUMI-SAN.

SHIORI... THAT SHIORI?

THE SAME ONE AS YESTERDAY ...?

YO, SHE'S HOT.

.....

LET'S GO!

NIKO (SMILE)

にっ

HER EYES ARE LIKE THE SEA ITSELF.

IT'S DEFI-NITELY HER.

MAYBE WE CAN SHUFFLE THINGS AROUND TOMORROW.

WE HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO PREP A SEAT FOR YOU YET.

SORRY, BUT FOR NOW I'LL HAVE YOU BORROW AN ABSENT STUDENT'S DESK.

...!

RIGHT HERE AND NOW...

KOTSU

KOTSU

COULD IT BE...?

KOTSU

KOTSU (KLAK)

AT SCHOOL? WHY?

KOTSU

SU (SWF)

...IS SHE GOING TO—?

.....

SUTON (TUNK)

I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE MET.

...UM.

.....

MY NAME IS SHIORI OUMI.

.....

IT'S A PLEA-SURE...

...TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAIN-TANCE.

—WHAT IN THE WORLD...

...IS GOING THROUGH ...

...THIS PERSON'S HEAD?

I'VE GOTTA STOP BY THE CORNER STORE.

LUNCH-TIME!

.....

MIIIN

JI (BZ)

JI

JI

JI

MIIIN

MIIIN

MIIIN

MIIIN (BUZZ)

MIIIN
MIIIN
.....
JI
JI
JI
JI
NIKO
MIIIN
MIIIN
NIKO
(SMILE)
MIIIN
JIII
JI
JI
JI
SERIOUSLY, WHAT'S HER DEAL...?
.....
YOU'RE A TALENTED CHEF, HINAKO!
DID YOU MAKE YOUR LUNCH YOURSELF?
MY, IT LOOKS MOUTH-WATERING.
MIIIN
MIIIN
..... SHIORI-SAN, THEN.
YES?
PLEASE ...
...CALL ME SHIORI.
UM.
OUMI-SAN?

JIIII
JI
JI
JI
JI
JI
JI
JI
JI (BZ)
JI
.....
.....
MIN
MIIIN
MIIIN
MIIIN
MIIIN
MIIIN
MIIIN
MIIIN (BUZZ)
DO YOU WANT SOMETHING FROM ME...?
NO, NOT AT THE MOMENT.
MIIIN
MIIIN
I HAVEN'T TOUCHED ANY OF IT YET.
...YOU CAN HAVE SOME OF MINE, THEN.
GOING FORWARD, I'D RECOMMEND YOU HEAD TO THE CAFETERIA EARLY AND GRAB SOMETHING YOURSELF, THOUGH.
IT'S SO UNCOMFORT-ABLE...
.....
NO LUNCH FOR YOU, HUH?
NOPE.
I DIDN'T BRING ANYTHING.
.....

.....

I'M NOT.

YOU'RE A KIND ONE.

GYU (CLENCH)

I'M HONESTLY NOT THAT HUNGRY RIGHT NOW EITHER...

IT'S NOT LIKE I MAKE MY OWN LUNCH FOR THE FUN OF IT...

MIKO-CHAN JUST WON'T SHUT UP IF I HALF-ASS MY MEALS...

BUT...

I APPRE-CIATE THE THOUGHT.

...OH, 'KAY.

...THE ONLY THING I WANT TO EAT...

...IS YOU.

.....

ZAA (WHOOSH)

SHIORI-SAN, ARE YOU...

WELL, YES.

IF YOU MUST KNOW.

...REALLY A MONSTER?

YES!

CORRECT AGAIN.

AND ...

...YOU'RE REALLY HERE TO EAT ME?

...IN THAT CASE...

MIIIN (BUZZ)

MIIIN

MIIIN

JI (BZ)

JI

JI

.....

TELL ME, HINAKO.

MIIIN

MIIIN

...WHY DIDN'T YOU DO IT YESTERDAY WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE?

DID YOU WANT ME TO EAT YOU?

!

THAT'S, UH...

...HOW COULD I...

THINK ABOUT ...

...THE LUNCH YOU'VE MADE THERE.

HMMM...

YES, OF COURSE ...

THE PIGS AND COWS AND SO ON WHOSE MEAT WENT TOWARD THAT...

...EACH HAD THEIR OWN IDEAL TIMING TO BE SLAUGHTERED, RIGHT?

OKAY ...?

AND IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE THEY SURVIVE TO REACH THAT MATURITY...

...THE FARMERS AND RANCHERS STRIVE TO KEEP THEIR ANIMALS IN GOOD HEALTH.

THEY EVEN BUILD FENCES, PENS, AND BARNS TO PROTECT THEIR LIVESTOCK FROM OUTSIDE THREATS.

?

COWS?

PIGS?

?

WHAT'S THIS GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING ...?

THEY ALSO CREATE A STRESS-FREE ENVIRONMENT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE MEAT, AND—

UM.

HANG ON...

SHIORI-SAN.

JI (BZ)

THE THING IS, HINAKO...

...JUST AS LIVESTOCK MUST REACH A CERTAIN RIPENESS BEFORE THEY'RE EATEN...

—I COULD NOT COMPRE-HEND...

...THE INNER WORKINGS OF HER MIND.

THE EARLY BLOOMERS ARE NICE TOO, OF COURSE.

BUT...

...DON'T YOU THINK THE SAME GOES FOR HUMANS AS WELL?

...THEN AGAIN, THAT'S ONLY NATURAL.

THAT'S WHY, HINAKO—

I NEED YOU TO EAT UP...

AFTER ALL...

...SO YOU CAN GROW BIG AND HEALTHY FOR ME.

...THIS WAS NO HUMAN BESIDE ME.

TON (TMP)

BOSO (MUTTER)

SO THAT'S IT...

MIIIN

MIN

MIIIIN

MIIIN (BUZZ)

?

HINAKO?

MIIIN

HMM...

PAKU (NOM)

SHE WALKED OFF...

MIIIN

MIIIN

HINA-KOOO!

WHAT ABOUT YOUR LUNCH!?

MIIIN

JIII (BZZZ)

JI

JI

JI

HEEEY!

OH.

SO TASTY.

MIIIN

MIIIN

MIIIN

MIIIN

ZA (FSSH)

ZAN

GYU (CLENCH)

WHY EVEN TELL ME THAT YESTER-DAY...?

I'VE COME TO DEVOUR YOU.

ZA

ZA

ZA

ZAN

IF THAT'S HOW IT IS, I WISH...

...SHE HAD JUST LET ME DIE YESTERDAY.

ZA (FSSH) ZA

ZA ZAN

THE HECK DOES SHE MEAN, "RIPE-NESS"?

SO SHE CAN JUST DECIDE TO EAT ME WHENEVER SHE WANTS?

GOBO (BLUB)

IF THAT'S HOW IT IS...

ZA

ZA

COME ON.

DEEP, DEEP AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA...

...MY HEART HAS LAIN SUNKEN ALL THIS TIME.

QUICK, HURRY.

I BEG YOU...

ANYONE WILL DO, SO PLEASE ...

ZA

ZA

ZA

EVER SINCE THAT DAY...

...I'VE ONLY WANTED ONE THING.

...TAKE ME ALREADY ...

—NO, I GUESS NOT...

ZARI (SKRCH)

ZA

ZAN

ONLY SHE CAN GRANT *MY WISH.*

ZA (FSSH)

ZA

ZA

ZAN

IT HAS TO BE HER.

I'M SURE OF IT...

...JUST A BIT LONGER.

.....

HOLDING ON TIGHT TO THE MEMORY OF THAT PRECIOUS THING I LOST LONG AGO...

FOR NOW...

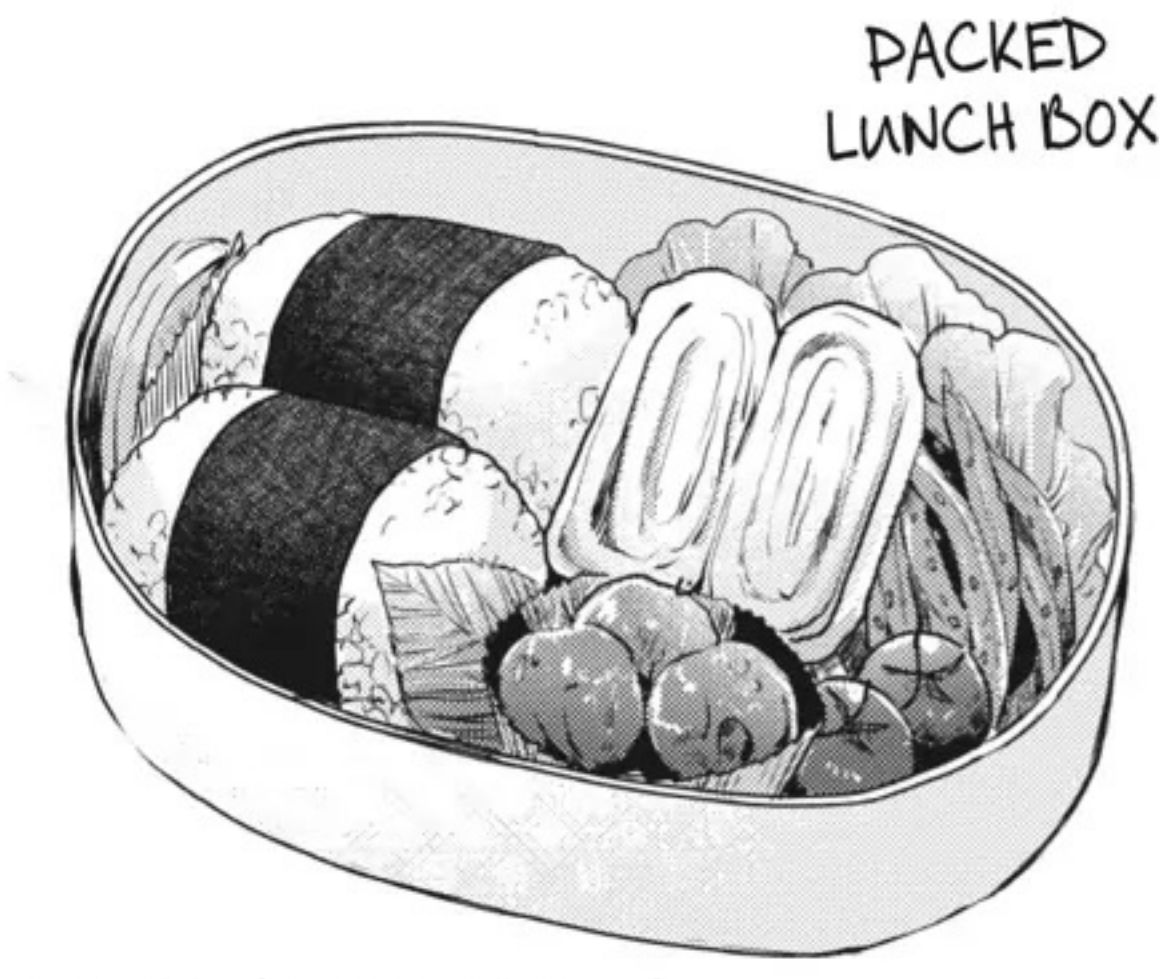
...I'LL TAKE HER AT HER WORD AND WAIT.

...JUST A LITTLE LONGER.

WAIT FOR ME...

...I'LL AWAIT THE DAY THAT BEAUTIFUL BEAST BARES HER FANGS...

...AND GRANTS ME MY DESIRE.



•RICE BALLS •PICKLED VEGGIES
•ROLLED OMELET •MEATBALLS •MINI TOMATOES
•GREEN BEANS W/ SESAME SEEDS •LEAFY GREENS

HINAKO'S SCHOOL UNIFORMS

DRAWS HEAVY INSPIRATION FROM COMMON SAILOR UNIFORM DESIGNS. WHITE FOR SUMMER, BLACK (ACTUALLY NAVY) FOR WINTER. THE SAME BLACK (NAVY) SKIRT IS USED FOR ALL SEASONS.

FOR HER OWN REASONS, HINAKO WEARS A LONG-SLEEVED UNDERSHIRT EVEN IN THE SUMMER (WITH PERMISSION FROM THE SCHOOL).

A WARM UNDERSHIRT IN THE WINTER, AND A THINNER, COOLER ONE IN SUMMER.

STOCKINGS IN SUMMER, TIGHTS IN WINTER (BOTH BLACK).

CHAPTER 3

HEY, NO RUNNING IN THE HALL!

MOR!

HEYA!

TALK ABOUT A MORNING PERSON...

MORN-ING!

GOOD!

MORNIN', HINAKO!

YOUR BESTIE, MIKO, IS BACK AND BETTER THAN—

NIIIING!!

SLIPAAAN (SLAAAM)

PIPE DOWN.

SO LOUD...

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

HINAKO'S SEAT

MIKO'S SEAT

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

PATAN (FWUMP)

!?

EVER ...?

GOOD MORNING.

..... WH...

I'M SHIORI OUMI.

WHOZ-ZAT!?

GAAH!

WHO ARE YOU !!??

CHAPTER
3
SUNSET BEAST AND FESTIVAL MUSIC

.....MIKO-CHAN?

ARGH!

GAAH!

HUH!? THAT'S MY HINAKO'S SEAT! SO WHY ARE YOU...?

I'M ASKING THE QUES-TIONS HERE!!

AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE?

BISHI (JAB)

JUST TELL ME— WHO'S THAT STRANGER AT YOUR DESK!?

IT'S ALL GOOD! LOOK, WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT!!

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE OUT SICK AGAIN TODAY.

OR WAIT. DID YOU TEXT ME ABOUT IT?

I HAVEN'T CHECKED MY PHONE ALL MORNING. SORRY.

...OH.

HIRA (WAVE)

HIRA

YOU MEAN SHIORI-SAN...

FRONT ROW AND CENTER!!!

AND...

...YOUR SEAT'S UP THERE NOW, MIKO-CHAN.

JAN (BWOMP)

WORST SEAT IN THE HOUSE !!!!

ALSO...

...WHEN SHE JOINED US, WE REARRANGED SEATS A BIT...

GOT IT...

THAT WOULD BE OUMI-SAN... A TRANSFER STUDENT.

Y-YA DON'T SAY?

OVER THERE

.....SENSEI DID SAY...

...IT'S BECAUSE "MIKO YASHIRO ABSORBS NONE OF THE LESSON WHEN SHE'S SITTING NEAR HINAKO YAOTOSE."

THAT'S HEART-LESS...

OVER HERE

I'M STILL IN THE BACK, OVER HERE.

F'REAL!? WE'VE BEEN TORN APART, BABE!!

OH, SHIORI-SAN...

A FRIEND OF YOURS, I TAKE IT?

CARE TO INTRODUCE ME, HINAKO?

HNNGH...

THE ONE WHO'S BEEN TAKING TIME OFF TO REST, CORRECT?

GRK

SHE'S THE GIRL WHOSE DESK YOU SAT AT YOUR FIRST DAY...

YEAH. HENCE WHY YOU TWO HAVEN'T MET.

OH YES. HER...

SHE'S—

GUI (YANK)

HINAKO'S BFF, MIKO YASHIRO, AT YOUR SERVICE! ♡

.....

YOU CAN CALL ME SHIORI.

LET'S GET ALONG, OUMI-SAN.

BACHI

BACHI

BACHI (KZAP)

バチ

バチ

YASHIRO! GET YOURSELF OVER TO THE STAFF ROOM DURING PASSING PERIOD, GOT IT?

AW, BUT DID YOU SEE HER...?

♪

HUUUH!? I DON'T WANNAAA!

.....

HEE HEE!

WHAT AN AMUSING GIRL.

TRY NOT TO TEASE HER TOO MUCH...

...MIKO-CHAN IS A GOOD EGG.

!

OOP!

EVEN AFTER THE AC-CIDENT...

NOT LIKE OTHER PEOPLE WHO ONLY TRY TO BE NICE OUT OF PITY.

SHE'S TREATED ME WELL FOR YEARS NOW.

...ANY-WAY, MIKO-CHAN...

...IS NOT ON THE MENU, OKAY?

JUST WHEN I'D THOUGHT YOU WENT QUIET THERE...

...WAS THAT ALL?

...

?

HINAKO ?

...LM, SO...

.....

...SO I SEEM DELICIOUS, BUT NOT MIKO-CHAN?

ARE WE REALLY SO DIF-FERENT?

HMM.

WELL, EVERY MONSTER HAS ITS PREFER-ENCES.

WHY DOES IT FEEL LIKE I'VE JUST BEEN REJECTED...?

NO NEED TO WORRY.

AS AMUSING AS SHE IS, SHE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE SHE'D TASTE VERY GOOD.

YEAH...

GOT IT...

I SEE...

BE SURE TO TELL YOUR FOLKS...

BUT YOU...

IT'S QUITE RARE TO FIND A PERSON WITH A SCENT MOST MONSTERS WOULD KILL FOR.

.....

"SCENT"?

AH HA HA!

A HUMAN WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TELL.

KUN (SNF)

SOME PREFER YOUNG MEN.

SOME ONLY WHISK AWAY BABIES.

SOME TARGET VIRGINS, OTHERS PREGNANT WOMEN...

THERE ARE AS MANY TASTES AS STARS IN THE SKY, AS THEY SAY...

I HOPE IT'S NOT A BAD SMELL...

YOU TRULY ARE A UNIQUE SPECIMEN ...

...HINAKO.

SAAA (WHOOSH)

...AM I THAT SPECIAL ...?

I DON'T REALLY GET ALL THIS TALK ABOUT BEING TASTY OR NOT, BUT...

...?

...YES, YOU DO HAVE A RARE SCENT, BUT...

OH...

...WELL...

I WONDER WHY THAT IS.

...I WAS TALKING ABOUT HOW YOU DON'T SHOW AN INKLING OF FEAR...

...EVEN WHEN I TELL YOU YOU'RE BAIT FOR ALL KINDS OF CREATURES.

I...

...SEE RIGHT DOWN TO MY SUNKEN INNER DEPTHS...

WELL...

!

—IT'S LIKE THOSE SEA-BLUE EYES OF HERS...

IT'S HARD TO DEAL WITH...

...I MEAN ...

...YOU DID...

...SAY YOU'D PROTECT ME FROM ALL THOSE OTHER MONSTERS, SO...

GYU (CLENCH)

.....

UMM...

UH...

.....

THAT'S WHY...

ぱぁ？

PAA (BEAM)

YES, EXACTLY! JUST SO!!

THOSE BEASTS WON'T GET A FINGER FROM YOU — NOT EVEN THE TIP OF A NAIL!

PHEW...

THANKS.

...R-RIGHT.

LEAVE IT ALL TO ME!

GYU (CLENCH)

OH, SORRY, BUT COULD YOU COME FILL OUT THIS TRANSFER PAPER-WORK?

YES?

TAKE CARE, THEN.

LATER, SENSEI!

OUMI? YOU STILL HERE?

HINAKO!

キラリーン (GLINT)

STAMP HERE AND HERE...

WHAT'S THIS?

OH DEAR ME.

HUMAN SOCIETY IS TEDIOUS IN EVERY ERA.

YES, SIR.

THEN I WILL RETURN THESE NEXT WEEK.

SHE'S BEEN SPIRITED AWAY?

MWAH HA HAAA !!

MIKO-CHAN...

MIIIN

MIIIN (BUZZ)

YOU KNOW THE SCHOOL DOESN'T LIKE WHEN YOU STOP FOR SNACKS...

NIKO

NIKO (GRIN)

THE TEACHER COULDN'T'VE HAD BETTER TIMING!

I WAS IN A COLD SWEAT THINKING YOU'D BE TAKEN FROM ME ON THE WAY HOME TOO!

HERE—NOW YOU'RE MY PARTNER IN CRIME, HINAKO!

OH BOY ...

POI (TOSS)

MIIIN
MIIIN
JIII (BZZZ)
JI
JI
JI
MIIIN (BUZZ)
MIIIN
MIIIN
AW. THIS STICK'S NOT A WINNER...
...OH, RIGHT. IT'S FOR THIS.
HERE, LOOK.
MIIIN
MIIIN
MIIIN
HMM?
.....LOTS OF PEOPLE ARE OUT AND ABOUT TODAY.

MIIIN

POSTER: FESTIVAL / 18TH ANNUAL

MIIIN

第18回

JI

JI

JI

MIIIN

MIIIN

TODAY'S THE SUMMER FESTIVAL.

.....

MIIII

JI

JI

JI

WE STILL HAVE LAST YEAR'S FISH.

AWW...

YOU MAY NOT.

CAN I PLAY THE GOLDFISH SCOOP GAME?

OH... THAT'S RIGHT.

POTA (DRIP)

BOTTLE: TEA

COME NOW!

ONLY IF YOUR FATHER SAYS IT'S OKAY.

FISHIES!

YEAH, I WANNA PLAY!

YOU WANNA PLAY TOO, RIGHT, HINAKO!?

THE GOLDFISH SCOOP!

MIIIN (BUZZ)

MIIIN

MIIIN

WOULD YOU WANNA ...

.....

...TRY GOING TO THE FESTIVAL WITH ME THIS YEAR?

HINAKO?

MIIIN

MIIIN

MIIIN

JI

(BZ)

JI

JI

JI

.....
SORRY, MIKO-CHAN...

...BUT NO THANKS.

D'AWWW!

UH-HUH.

GURA (SHAKE)

AND ALL THOSE BIG CROWDS? YUCK! WHO NEEDS 'EM!?

UH-HUH.

IT'S NOT, TOO THERE GONNA BE SO MANY PEOPLE, AND, AND, AND...

IN FACT, I'M SORRY I ASKED FOR SOMETHING HARD!

BESIDES, I BET YOU CAN WATCH THE FIREWORKS FROM YOUR PLACE ANYWAY!

YOU DON'T GOTTA APOLO-GIZE LIKE THAT!

Y—

...MIKO-CHAN...

ガラ…
GARA (SLIDE)

...I REALLY AM SORRY.

THAT YUKATA LOOKS GREAT ON YOU.

BETTER SHOW UP EARLY. NEED A PRIMO FIREWORK-VIEWING SPOT.

BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET LOST, OKAY?

WAI

LET'S CHECK OUT THE FOOD STALLS FIRST!

WHEN DO THE FIRE-WORKS START AGAIN?

WAI

DON'T RUN IN YOUR YUKATA, NOW!

WAI (CLAMOR)

MOMMY! DADDY! COME ONNN!

GOBO (GLUB)

SUMMER'S SUPPOSED TO BE THIS SPECIAL, GLITTERING TIME OF YEAR, BUT...

...RIGHT NOW, IT'S JUST...

... SUFFO-CATING.

ZA
(ZWOOSH)

ピンポーン

PINPOOON (DING-DOOONG)

……

SO HOT...

...WHEN DID I DOZE OFF...?

パタ
PATA

PATA (TMP) パタ

BE RIGHT THERE—

ギシ…
GISHI (KREEK)

!

PINPOOON (DING-DOOONG)

ピンポーン

OKAY, COMING!

ZAA (WHOOSH)

…!

THE BLINDING RAYS OF THE SETTING SUN, AND...

...THE SCENT OF THE TIDE...

JYARI (SKRITCH)

HEE-HEE... DOESN'T IT FEEL STRANGE TO SAY "GOOD EVENING"...

...WHEN IT'S STILL SO PAINFULLY BRIGHT OUTSIDE?

GOOD EVENING.

I'VE COME TO INVITE YOU TO THE SUMMER FESTIVAL.

AND I'M GONNA TRY 'EM ALL!
MM-MM!
THE CORNER STORE'S GOT NEW SWEETS AND ICE CREAM FLAVORS!
THIS ONE'S A KEEPER ...!

SHIORI'S OUTFITS

ORIGINALLY, I HAD PLANNED FOR HER TO SHOW UP WEARING A SCHOOL UNIFORM, BUT CHANGED IT TO A WHITE ONE-PIECE DRESS. I CONSIDERED A NUMBER OF DESIGNS BEFORE SETTLING ON A RELATIVELY SIMPLE ONE.
(WOMAN WHO CANNOT PULL OFF FRILLS→)

AN OFF-THE-SHOULDER TOP DOESN'T SUIT HER...

SCRAPPED IDEAS

FRILLS DON'T FIT EITHER...

BONUS:
MIKO'S UNIFORM (AUTUMN)

SO MANY DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS

(SKIRT TOO SHORT, TONS OF ACCESSORIES, SLAPPED ON A CARDIGAN INSTEAD OF WEARING THE SEASONAL UNIFORM, ETC.)

CHAPTER 4

3話ガール

HITSUJIYAMA

OH?

WELL, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT...

THERE ARE SO MANY ECCENTRIC STALLS THESE DAYS.

FRIED CHICKEN

カラあげ

SHAVED ICE

EACH

STRAW-BERRY

MELON

SODA

THESE COLORS... ARE THEY FIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMP-TION?

WELCOME!

AMAZING!

DEN (TA-DAA)

RAINBOW BOBA

WOW!

EVEN JUST OBSERVING IS SUCH FU—

...HOW...

YOTA

YOTA (SHAMBLE)

DON'T DAWDLE!

YOU MUST SEE THIS, HINAKO.

...DID SHE ROPE ME INTO THIS.....?

CHOCO BANA

OVER HERE!

CHAPTER 4

Bloom by Night, Scatter to the Sea

KANA (CHIRP)
KANA
KANA
KANA
KANA

I'VE COME TO INVITE YOU TO THE SUMMER FESTIVAL.

THE SUMMER...
... FESTIVAL...

I'M SORRY...

!

I SAW SO MANY HUMANS IN YUKATA ROBES!

THAT'S RIGHT!

I HEAR THERE'S ONE HELD IN THIS NEIGHBOR-HOOD.

THERE WILL EVEN BE FIREWORKS. LET'S GO SEE THEM TOGETHER!

I'M NO GOOD WITH LARGE CROWDS...

MIKO-CHAN ASKED ME TOO, AND I TURNED HER DOWN.

SO THANKS, BUT NO THANKS...

KARA (SLIDE) カラ...

TRY ASKING SOMEONE EL...

...SE?

DON'T BE LIKE THAT.

I HATE IT.

I WON'T ACCEPT IT.

UH...?

GU

GU (LOOM)

GU

STAY OUT...

HEY...!

UM.

GU

GU

WHA.....?

HINAKO—

...YEAH, HEARD YOU LOUD AND CLEAR.

...BUT WHAT'S THE SUMMER FESTIVAL GOT TO DO WITH IT...?

GUGI (STRAIN)

GI

AS I SAID ONCE BEFORE...

...I'VE TAKEN IT UPON MYSELF TO CULTIVATE YOU TO DELECTABLE PERFECTION.

TSURA (BLAH)

A HEALTHY MIND LEADS TO A HEALTHY BODY.

TSURA

TSURA

UNLESS YOU ARE OF BOTH SOUND BODY AND MIND, YOU CANNOT REACH YOUR PEAK DELICIOUS POTENTIAL.

TSURA

AND YET, ON THE EVENING OF THE FESTIVAL, I FIND YOU HOLED UP AT HOME...?

TSURA

TSURA

WHY, THE TWO ARE VERY CLOSELY INTER-TWINED!

H-HOW SO?

KOTSU (CLACK)

LISTEN UP NOW, HINAKO.

AT THIS RATE, I'M AFRAID YOU'LL NEVER BE FIT TO BE DEVOURED.

...!

GET YOURSELF CHANGED, WON'T YOU?

NOW HURRY, LEST THE FIREWORKS START WITHOUT US.

LET'S BRING OUT THOSE MOUTH-WATERING FLAVORS OF YOURS.

.....

HERE.

I SAW MANY HUMANS ENJOYING THESE...

...AND THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE PARTIAL TO THEM AS WELL.

...UH, THANKS.

I'M GOOD WITH THE APPLE...

RAIN BO BOW BA

OR WOULD ONE OF THESE HAVE BEEN BETTER?

TAKOYAKI

...IT'S SWEET.

KARI (KRUNCH)

PARI (CRINKL)

SEEMS THE CROWD'S GROWN.

OH?

SHE'S SELFISH...

...PUSHY...

THE FIREWORKS SHOW IS SOON...

...AND WON'T HEAR WHAT ANYONE ELSE HAS TO SAY.

AH, OF COURSE.

HINAKO.

—AND YET...

PLEASE KEEP CLOSE SO WE DON'T LOSE EACH OTHER.

...SHE'S ALSO FRIGHT-ENINGLY ...

...KIND.

...WHAT AN ODD FEELING.

...BACK THEN—

BEING AT A FESTIVAL, HAVING SOMEONE DRAG ME BY MY HAND LIKE THIS...

IT'S JUST LIKE...

THE FESTIVAL'S SO MUCH FUN!

ONII-CHAN!

MOMMY! DADDY!

?

HINAKO?

ZARI (SKFF)

IS SOME-THING THE MATTE—

(PASHI (SHWAP)

OP

HINAKO!

...SORRY.

...I KNEW ...

...I SHOULD HAVE NEVER COME.

.....

NO, THAT'S NOT IT.

THE MEMORIES FLOW BACK WHETHER I WANT THEM TO OR NOT—

IT'S NOT LIKE...

WHY WOULDN'T I WANT THAT?

...I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER MY FAMILY.

HURRY UP!

OVER HERE!

I'VE NEVER ONCE...

...WISHED I COULD FORGET THEM...

CHECK IT OUT, KOU-KUN!

TAKE A LOOK UP AT THE SKY!

HERE COME THE FIREWORKS!

BUT.....

PAAAN (BAAANG)
ア
アーン

HFF...

HFF...

...I CAN BARELY BREATHE.

...MY CHEST FEELS SO TIGHT...

...WHEN I DO REMEMBER...

HFF...

THOSE FIREWORKS SURE WERE PRETTY!

SEND ME THE PICS LATER, OKAY?

FOUND YOU...

.....AHA.

TSK, TSK

SUCH A LITTLE RUNAWAY YOU ARE.

...HINAKO.

YOU SENT ME ON QUITE THE HUNT—

PIKU (TWITCH)

STAY AWAY.

...I KNOW YOU DON'T WANNA EAT ME UNTIL I TASTE BETTER OR WHATEVER, BUT...

.....

...I THINK THIS IS AS GOOD AS I'M GONNA GET.

HINA—

LISTEN, SHIORI-SAN...

I MEAN...

...I'M ALREADY REGRETTING EVEN COMING OUT HERE.

I KNOW YOU SAID IT'S ABOUT IMPROVING MY FLAVOR...

...BUT EVERY TIME YOU'RE KIND TO ME, IT MAKES ME WONDER...

...TO TRUST YOU AND WAIT IT OUT...

—I'M STARTING TO REGRET THE DECISION I MADE...

KOTSU (CLACK)

.....
HAAH...

...WHETHER YOU REALLY PLAN TO EAT ME AT ALL.

...DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?

KOTSU

YOU TRULY...

PAKI (SHNK)

KOTSU

KOTSU

ニ

GUSHA (SPURT)

POTA (DRIP)

POTA

POTA

SHIORI-SAN... YOUR ARM...

ZURU (DRAG)

I'M QUITE ALL RIGHT.

...!

GI (GRR)

GIII

GU (GRAB)

GI (GRR)

AFTER ALL...

...I'M NOT HUMAN.

GUCHA (SPRCH)

...GOOD GRIEF.

IN TRUTH, I WOULD SAVOR NOTHING MORE...

JUWA (FIZZ)

I'M ENVIOUS OF THE LOWLY BEASTS WHO CAN MINDLESSLY FOLLOW THEIR INSTINCTS TO SINK THEIR TEETH INTO YOU.

JUWA

...AND CONSUME YOU, DOWN TO THE LAST FINGER-NAIL.

...!

...THAN TO PEEL OFF YOUR SKIN RIGHT HERE...

TSU (POKE)

...SLASH OPEN YOUR GUT...

...YANK OUT EVERY LAST ONE OF YOUR INSIDES...

...BUT ALAS, WHAT AM I TO DO WITH YOU?

SU (SHF)

DO YOU REALIZE HOW HARD I'M TRYING TO MAKE YOU THE MOST DELICIOUS MORSEL YOU CAN BE?

HAAH...

GUCHI (GRUMBLE)

GUCHI

GUCHI

WHAT'S ALL THAT ABOUT!?

...AND YOU'RE ALL, "I WON'T GET TASTIER" THIS AND "YOU'RE TOO NICE TO ME" THAT!

I WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF ESCORTING YOU TO THE FESTIVAL...

GUCHI

GUCHI

GUCHI

SUTON (PLOP)

...WAIT. WHY AM I APOLOGIZING HERE?

I MEAN, I GUESS IT WAS WRONG OF ME TO DITCH HER...

KORO (PERK)

HUH?

AS LONG AS YOU UNDER-STAND!

AND YOU REPAY ME BY IGNORING MY FEELINGS ON THE MATTER AND ABANDONING ME IN THE CROWD.....?

OH... ERM.

SORRY .....?

HIC! BOO-HOO-HOO...

BIKU (JOLT)

NOW THAT YOU HAVE A CLEARER PICTURE OF ME...

ZUI (THRUST)

ON THAT NOTE!

...IN THE INTEREST OF DEEPENING OUR FRIENDSHIP AND RAPPORT...

...I HAVE A QUESTION I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU AS WELL, HINAKO.

WHAT IS IT, ALL OF A SUDDEN .....?

ZAA (WHOOSH)

A QUES-TION?

?

I'VE BEEN WONDERING FOR A WHILE, ACTUALLY—

GIRI (CLENCH)

WHAT...

...HAS YOU IN SUCH A HURRY TO DIE?

...!!
RAINBOW BOBA
ENCOUNTER WITH THE UNKNOWN
FLAVOR

THIS BONUS COMIC IS ALL ABOUT HINAKO AND ME!!
LET'S HOPE IT STAYS THAT WAY.
NOBODY ASKED YOU!!

くるっとな
KURUTTONA (F.WIRL)

YOU HAVE TO SHAKE THE WHOLE PAN LIKE SO...

...WHILE ROLLING THE OMELET TOWARD YOU.

JUU (SIZZ)

.....

JUU

TA-DAA!

UH-HUH, UH-HUH!

I GRAB THE PAN, AND...

NOW YOU GIVE IT A TRY, AND WE'LL CALL IT A WRAP.

...SHAKE.....

GU (HEAVE)

BLIN (FWOOSH)

THE EGGS

...IT.

GUCHA (SPLAT)

THE EGGS

SHE'S WORSE THAN I EVER IMAGINED...

THE PREVIOUS NIGHT

A PACKED LUNCH?

...BUT...

...so let's cook togeth-er!

I'LL STOP BY YOUR PLACE IN THE MORNING BEFORE SCHOOL...

I EVEN BOUGHT THE GROCERIES!

YOU ALWAYS JUST BUY LUNCH FROM THE STORE, RIGHT?

WHICH IS WHY WE'RE GONNA PRACTICE!

...I'm awful at cooking... never made a meal for myself.

...Miko-chan, I'm way more hopeless than you think...

PSHAW! RELAX!

YOU'VE GOT ME AROUND TO TEACH YOU!

AH HA HA!

Plus, your aunt went back to Kanto this year, right?

Which means you gotta learn to cook for yourself, babe!

YEAH.

SHE HAD TO FOR WORK...

LEAVE IT ALL TO ME!

...FAMOUS LAST WORDS.

MINI HOT DOG CHALLENGE FAILURE

AAAGH!

HOT DOG ①

HOT DOG ②

GOOOO (BLAAAZE)

I THOUGHT I PREPPED TWO CUPS OF RICE?

BORO (RUINED)

...

RICE BALL CHALLENGE FAILURE

MEATBALL CHALLENGE FAILURE

BUSU (FSSS)

ブス...

BUSU

ブス...

MICROWAVE

TEN MINUTES...

HOW LONG DID YOU PUT THEM IN FOR!?

CULINARY GRAVEYARD...

...

SHE SUCKS A HUNDRED TIMES WORSE THAN I THOUGHT...

I'M REALLY SORRY, MIKO-CHAN.

AND WE'RE IN TROUBLE IF WE DON'T HEAD TO SCHOOL SOON...

WE USED UP ALL THE GROCERIES I BOUGHT.

ONLY THE CORNER STORE IS OPEN AT THIS HOUR.

HMM...

!

.....I CAN'T...

...COMPARE TO MOM'S COOKING AFTER ALL...

I WASTED ALL THE FOOD YOU BROUGHT OVER...

GYU (GRIP)

HINAKO!!

GU (CLENCH)

GASHI (GLOMP)

TIME FOR BOOT CAMP!!

HUH?

EVEN TRADITIONAL DISHES ON NEW YEAR'S!

MIKO-CHAN?

STARTING TODAY, WE'RE GONNA PREP OUR LUNCHES AND DINNERS WHILE WE'RE AT IT EVERY DARN DAY!

WHAA-AAAT!?

UH...

UM!?

SURE, YOUR MOM COULD COOK LIKE NOBODY'S BUSINESS, BUT HOW'D SHE GET THAT WAY!? PRACTICE, THAT'S HOW!!

AND THAT MEANS ALL YOU NEED IS A BUNCHA PRACTICE AND YOU CAN BE JUST LIKE HER!!

MIKO'S DAILY BOOT CAMP WENT ON...

(HER PERSONAL OPINION)

...SWEET?

YES, CORRECT!!!

SWEET OR SALTY?

FRIED EGGS OVER PORK GETS WHAT KIND OF SAUCE?

EGGS

WHEN CHOPPING, KEEP HANDS SAFE WITH...

...THE CAT PAW METHOD!!

CAT? WHAT CAT...?

ONE MONTH LATER

THE ABC'S OF COOKING!! WHAT'S "A"!?

AHI TUNA?

WRONG!!

COOKING BASICS

...UNTIL, AT LAST...

OOH...

I-IT'S PERFECT!!

AAH...

UH... SURE, OKAY...

GIVE UP YOUR LEFTOVER ROLLED OMELET!

NOW THEN, YAOTOSE-KUN...

I SHALL BE YOUR TASTE TESTER TODAY!

モグ
MOGU (NOM)

MOGU

モグ

.....

カ
KACHA (CLNK)

チャ...

...NUH-UH.

...?

...WAS IT NOT GOOD AFTER ALL?

THAT'S MY HINAKO!!

TOTALLY YUMMERS!

EVERY BIT AS TASTY AS YOUR MOM'S OMELETS!

.....

CHOP-CHOP, HINAKO!! WE'RE GONNA BE LATE!!

GAH!!! LOOKIT THE TIME!!

.....THANK YOU...

...MIKO-CHAN.

Translation Notes

GENERAL

-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals regardless of gender.

Page 12

Shiomihashi literally translates to "Tide-Watching Bridge."

Page 35

Saikaidou, or the "Western Sea Circuit," is an ancient administrative unit of Japan consisting of the large western island of modern-day Kyushu and two of its surrounding islands.

Page 40

An *iso-onna* is a type of *yokai*, creatures from Japanese folklore. It takes the form of a beautiful woman, luring its prey into the sea, where it drains their blood using its hair.

Page 89

Kitsune udon is a simple noodle soup dish with thick noodles, fried tofu, fish cake, and scallions.

Page 104

It is common in Japan for popsicles to include a chance to win a small prize, indicated by a mark on the obscured end of the stick.

Page 122

Yukata are traditional summer kimonos, commonly worn at festivals or bathhouses.

YOU CERTAINLY ARE A WHIZ IN THE KITCHEN, HINAKO.
TODAY'S LUNCH LOOKS DELICIOUS AS USUAL.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO MY SPARTAN TEACHER...

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR PICKING UP VOLUME 1 OF THIS MONSTER WANTS TO EAT ME!

HI THERE! I'M SAI NAEKAWA.

MONSTEAT TAKES PLACE IN A SLEEPY, RURAL TOWN ON THE SEASHORE, BUT SOME SPECIFIC LOCATIONS IN THE STORY WERE MODELED AFTER SPOTS FROM MY ACTUAL HOMETOWN.

I'D LIKE TO USE THIS SPACE TO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE SETTING OF MONSTEAT (THAT'S HOW I'M ABBREVIATING THE TITLE).

I LOVE THE "GLOOMY" + "SEASIDE" COMBO.

...WAS INSPIRED BY THE REAL-LIFE SHIOMIBASHI (LOCATED AT THE BEACH NEAR CHUYO, WITHIN EHIME PREFECTURE).

GONNA THROW YOURSELF IN?

THE BRIDGE IN CHAPTER 1 WHERE HINAKO AND SHIORI MEET (ALSO ON THE COVER OF THIS BOOK)...

I HAD SO MANY GOOD TIMES THERE AS A CHILD. EVEN THESE DAYS, I GO THERE TO BREATHE IN THE FRESH SEA AIR.

HUH?

I HOPE YOU READERS CAN ALSO GET A KICK OUT OF THE WORLD OF MONSTEAT THAT I'VE CREATED.

AS SOMEONE RAISED BY THE SETO INLAND SEA, I THINK THE SEA OF JAPAN AND THE PACIFIC OCEAN ARE TOO SCARY.

I LOVE THE SHORES OF THE SETO INLAND SEA, AND I LOVE STORIES ABOUT TWISTED RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN GLOOMY GIRLS (JUST MY TYPE), SO GETTING TO COMBINE THOSE ELEMENTS IS SO MUCH FUN FOR ME ON A PERSONAL LEVEL.

– Sai Naekawa

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· KAMEMARU-SAN, MY EDITOR · MY DESIGNER, SALIDAS CO.'S SHOJI-SAN · EHIME PREFECTURE'S IYO AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL, FOR PROVIDING VISUAL REFERENCE FOR THE SCHOOL · SHINO-SENSEI · MY FRIENDS · MY FAMILY · YOU READERS!

This Monster Wants to Eat Me 1

Sai Naekawa

Translation:
CALEB COOK

Lettering:
BIANCA PISTILLO

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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